

Classical Music

A Young Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in 1756 in Austria. He would become one of the most talented composers to ever live. He started to write and play music before he was even eight years old!

As a three-year-old, Mozart already loved music. He would listen to his father teach his older sister. She was learning to play the piano. Mozart looked up to his sister, and he copied her playing.

Mozart's father noticed Mozart's **talent**¹ in music. He began to teach his son. Mozart was a fast learner. Before he was even five years old, Mozart could play full songs.

Before long, Mozart wrote his own musical **composition**² at the age of five. He knew how to read and write music before he could read or write words! His first piece was very short.

Soon, Mozart's father and the family toured all the major musical centers in Western Europe. Mozart played music in the cities. He played for nobles and royalty. Many times he played music with his sister. During the tour, Mozart met some musicians and learned from them. One of the musicians was Johann Christian Bach, the youngest son of Johann Sebastian Bach.

When he was eight years old, Mozart started writing music for the full orchestra. Before long, he finished writing his first symphony.

Mozart died on December 5, 1791. He was only 35 years old, but he composed more than 600 musical pieces. More than 200 years later, Mozart is still known as one of the greatest composers ever.

¹ **talent** – natural ability

² **composition** - a written piece of music, especially one of considerable size and complexity

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. When did Mozart start to write and play music?
 - a. when he was 35 years old
 - b. when he was 10 years old
 - c. when he was five years old
 - d. before he was eight years old

2. The text describes the early years of Beethoven's life. Which of the following events happened first?
 - a. Mozart wrote his first own musical composition.
 - b. Mozart started writing music for the full orchestra.
 - c. Mozart toured all the major musical centers in Western Europe.
 - d. Mozart listened to his father teach his sister how to play music.

3. Mozart was a very gifted child. What evidence from the text supports this conclusion?
 - a. Before he was even five years old, Mozart could play full songs.
 - b. While touring different cities throughout Europe, Mozart played for nobles and royalty.
 - c. Mozart was only 35 years old when he died.
 - d. Mozart is still known as one of the greatest composers ever.

4. Where would this text most likely be found?
 - a. in a novel about Mozart
 - b. in a book of poetry about classical music
 - c. in a book of biographies of classical musicians
 - d. in a newspaper article from 1791

5. What is the main idea of this text?
 - a. Mozart composed more than 600 musical pieces during his life.
 - b. Mozart was a very talented child and grew up to become one of the greatest composers to ever live.
 - c. Mozart's father and the family toured all the major musical centers in Western Europe.
 - d. Mozart's father taught both Mozart and his sister how to play music.

6. Who taught Mozart how to play music?

7. Based on the information in the text, explain what most likely impacted Mozart’s development as a musician.

8. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

_____ Mozart did not live a very long life, he did compose more than 600 musical pieces.

- a. Instead
- b. Because
- c. Consequently
- d. Although

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

When Mozart was only three years old, he would listen to his father teach his older sister how to play the piano because he loved music.

Who? Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

What would Mozart do? _____

Why? _____

When? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** composer: someone who writes music.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____
